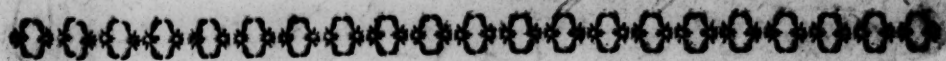


K Great Britain

George III. King



PITT'S ACT,

TO PREVENT



SEDITIONOUS MEETINGS.

After reciting that several assemblies, &c. of persons had met for the purpose, or under pretext of deliberating on publick grievances and agreeing on petitions, complaints, remonstrances, declarations, or other addresses, to the King, or two Houses, or either House of Parliament, and that such meetings may produce calamity and confusion in the nation.

BE it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that no meeting, of any description of persons, exceeding the number of fifty persons, (other than and except any meeting of any County, Riding, or division, called by the Lord Lieutenant, Custos Rotulorum, or Sheriff, of such county; or a meeting called by the convener of any county or stewardry in that part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*; or any meeting called by two or more Justices of the peace of the county or place where such meeting shall be holden; or any meeting of any county, having different ridings or divisions, called by any two Justices of any one or more of such ridings or divisions; or any meeting called by the major part of the Grand Jury of the county, or of the division of the county, where such meeting shall be holden, at their General Assizes or General Quarter Sessions of the Peace; or any meeting of any City, or Borough, or Town Corporate, called by the Mayor or other Head Officer of such City or Borough, or Town Corporate; or any meeting of any ward or division of any City or Town Corporate, called by the Alderman or other Head Officer of such ward or division; or any meeting of any corporate body), shall be holden, for the purpose or on the pretext of considering of or preparing any petition, complaint, remonstrance, or declaration, or other address, to the King, or to both Houses, or either House of Parliament, for alteration of matters established in Church or State, or for the purpose or on the pretext of deliberating upon any grievance in Church or State, unless notice of the intention to hold such meeting, and of the time and place when and where the same shall be proposed to be holden, and of the purpose for which the same shall be proposed to be holden, shall be given, in the names of seven persons

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at the least, being householders, resident within the County, City, or place where such meeting shall be proposed to be holden, whose places of abode and descriptions shall be inserted in such notice, and which notice shall be given by public advertisement in some public newspaper usually circulated in the County and Division where such meeting shall be holden five days at the least before such meeting shall be holden, or shall be delivered in manner herein-after mentioned; and that such notice shall not be inserted in any such newspaper unless the authority to insert such notice shall be signed by seven persons at least, being householders resident within the County, City, or place where such meeting shall be proposed to be holden, and named in such notice, and unless such authority, so signed, shall be written at the foot of a true copy of such notice, and shall be delivered to the person required to insert the same in any such newspaper as aforesaid; which person shall cause such notice and authority to be carefully preserved, and shall also, at any time after such notice shall have been inserted in such paper, and within fourteen days after the day on which such meeting shall be had, produce such notice and authority, and cause a true copy thereof (if required) to be delivered to any Justice of the Peace for the County, City, Town or place, where such person shall reside, or where such newspaper shall be printed, and who shall require the same; and in case any person shall insert any such notice in any newspaper, without such authority as aforesaid, or in case any person to whom any such notice and authority, shall have been delivered for the purpose of inserting such notice in any such newspaper as aforesaid, shall refuse to produce such notice and authority, or to deliver a true copy thereof, being thereunto required as aforesaid, within three days after such production and copy, or either of them, shall have been so required, every such person, for every such offence, shall forfeit the sum of fifty pounds to any person who shall sue for the same.

II. Provided always, nevertheless, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful to deliver any such notice as aforesaid, signed by the seven persons in whose names such notice shall be given, with their places of abode, and descriptions, five days at the least before the day on which such meeting shall be holden, to the clerk of the peace of the County, Riding, or division, within which such meeting shall be proposed to be holden; and such clerk of the peace shall forthwith, and without delay, send a true copy of such notice, with such signatures and additions as aforesaid, to three Justices of the Peace at the least, of such County, Riding, or division, then resident within such County, Riding, or division; or in case the Justices of the Peace of the City, Borough, or town, where such meeting shall be proposed to be holden, shall have exclusive jurisdiction, then to three of such Justices, if so many shall then be resident within such jurisdiction, and if not, then to so many of such Justices as shall be resident within such exclusive jurisdiction; and in such case, such notice so given by such means as aforesaid, shall be as effectual, to all intents and purposes, as if the same had been given by publick advertisement, inserted in any such newspaper as aforesaid.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all meetings, of any description of persons, exceeding the number of fifty persons (other than and except as aforesaid), which shall be holden without such previous notice as aforesaid, for the purpose or on the pretext of considering of or preparing any petition, complaint, remonstrance, declaratation, or other address, to the King, or both Houses,
or

or either House of Parliament, for alteration of matters established in Church or State, or for the purpose, or on the pretext of deliberating on any grievance in Church or State, shall be deemed and taken to be unlawful assemblies.

IV. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any persons, exceeding the number of fifty, being assembled contrary to the provisions herein before contained, and being required or commanded by any one or more Justice or Justices of the peace, or by the Sheriff of the County or his Under Sheriff, or by the Mayor or other Head Officer or Justice of the Peace of any City or Town Corporate, where such assembly shall be, by proclamation to be made in the King's name, in the form herein-after directed, to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, shall, to the number of twelve or more, notwithstanding such proclamation made, remain or continue together by the space of one hour after such command or request made by proclamation, that then such continuing together to the number of twelve or more, after such command or request made by proclamation, shall be adjudged felony without benefit of Clergy, and the offenders therein shall be adjudged felons, and shall suffer death, as in case of felony without benefit of Clergy.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the order and form of the proclamation to be made as aforesaid shall be as hereafter followeth: (that is to say), the Justice of the Peace, or other person authorized by this Act to make the said proclamation, shall, among the said persons assembled, or as near to them as he can safely come, with a loud voice command, or cause to be commanded, silence to be while proclamation is making, and after that shall openly and with loud voice make, or cause to be made, proclamation in these words, or like in effect:

‘OUR Sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all persons being assembled immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations or to their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the Act, made in the thirty-sixth year of King George the third, for the more effectually preventing Seditious Meetings and Assemblies.

‘GOD save the KING.’

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in case any meeting shall be holden, in pursuance of any such notice as aforesaid, and the purpose for which the same shall in such notice have been declared to be holden, or any matter which shall be in such notice proposed to be propounded or deliberated upon at such meeting, shall purport that any matter or thing by law established may be altered otherwise than by the authority of the King, Lords and Commons, in Parliament assembled, or shall tend to incite or stir up the people to hatred or contempt of the person of his Majesty, his Heirs or Successors, or of the Government and Constitution of this Realm, as by law established, it shall be lawful for one or more Justice or Justices, or the Sheriff of the County where such meeting shall be, or for the Mayor or other Head Officer, or any Justice of the Peace of any City or Town Corporate, where any such meeting shall be, by proclamation, to require or command the persons there assembled to disperse themselves; and if any persons, to the number of twelve or more, being so required or commanded, by proclamation to be made in the King's name, in the form

herein-before directed, to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, shall, to the number of twelve or more, notwithstanding such proclamation made, remain or continue together by the space of one hour after such command or request made by proclamation, that then such continuing together to the number of twelve or more, after such command or request made by proclamation, shall be adjudged felony without benefit of Clergy, and the offenders therein shall be adjudged felons, and shall suffer death, as in case of felony without benefit of Clergy.

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any one or more Justice or Justices of the Peace, present at any meeting requiring such notice as aforesaid, shall think fit to order any person or persons who shall at such meeting proceed to propound or maintain any proposition for altering any thing by law established, otherwise than by the authority of the King, Lords, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, or shall wilfully and advisedly make any proposition, or hold any discourse, for the purpose of inciting and stirring up the people to hatred or contempt of the person of his Majesty, his Heirs or Successors, or the Government and Constitution of this Realm, as by law established, to be taken into custody, to be dealt with according to law; and in case the said Justice or Justices, or any of them, or any Peace Officer acting under their or any of their orders, shall be obstructed in taking into custody, any person or persons so ordered to be taken into custody, then and in such case it shall be lawful for any such Justice or Justices thereupon to make, or cause to be made, such proclamation as aforesaid, in manner aforesaid; and if any persons to the number of twelve or more, being required or commanded by such proclamation to disperse themselves and peaceably to depart as aforesaid, shall, to the number of twelve or more, notwithstanding such proclamation made, remain or continue together by the space of one hour after such command or request made by proclamation, that then such continuing together to the number of twelve or more, after such command or request made by proclamation, shall be adjudged felony without benefit of Clergy, and the offenders therein shall be adjudged felons, and shall suffer death, as in case of felony without benefit of Clergy.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every Justice and Justices of the Peace, Sheriff, Under Sheriff, Mayor, and other Head Officer aforesaid, is and are hereby authorized and empowered, on notice or knowledge of any such meeting or assembly as is herein-before mentioned, to resort to the place where such meeting or assembly shall be, or shall be intended to be holden, or to any part thereof, and there to do, or order or cause to be done, all such Acts, matters, and things, as the case may require, which they are hereby enabled to do, or order to be done, or which they are otherwise by law enabled to do, or ordered to be done; and it shall be lawful for all and every Justices of the Peace, Sheriff, Under Sheriff, Mayor, and other Head Officer as aforesaid, to take and require the assistance of any number of Constables or other Officers of the Peace, within their respective districts, or within the district or place wherein every such meeting as herein-before mentioned shall be holden; which Constables and other Officers of the Peace are hereby required to attend accordingly such Justices, Sheriff, Under Sheriff, Mayor, or other Head Officer respectively, and to give such assistance as shall be necessary for the due execution of this Act.

IX. And

IX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if such persons so assembled as aforesaid, or twelve or more of them, after any proclamation made in manner aforesaid, shall continue together, and not disperse themselves within one hour, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for every Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, or Under Sheriff of the County where such assembly shall be, and also to and for every high or petty Constable, and other Peace Officer within such County, and also to and for every Mayor, Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, and other head Officer, high or petty Constable and other Peace Officer, of any City or Town Corporate where such assembly shall be, and to and for such other person or persons as shall be commanded to be assisting unto any such Justice of the Peace, Sheriff or Under Sheriff, Mayor, or other head Officer aforesaid, who are hereby authorized and empowered to command all his Majesty's subjects, of age and ability, to be assisting to them therein, to seize and apprehend, and they are hereby required to seize and apprehend, such persons so assembled, and continuing together after proclamation made as aforesaid, and forthwith to carry the persons so apprehended before one or more of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the County or place where such persons shall be so apprehended, in order to their being proceeded against for such offences according to law; and that if the persons so assembled, or any of them, shall happen to be killed, maimed, or hurt in the dispersing, seizing, or apprehending, or endeavouring to disperse, seize, or apprehend them, by reason of their resisting the persons so dispersing, seizing or apprehending, or endeavouring to disperse, seize, or apprehend them, that then every such Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, Under Sheriff, Mayor, Head Officer, High or Petty Constable, or other Peace Officer, and all and singular persons, being aiding and assisting to them or any of them, shall be free, discharged, and indemnified, as well against the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, as against all and every other person and persons, or, for, or concerning the killing, maiming, or hurting, of any such person or persons so assembled, that shall happen to be so killed, maimed, or hurt as aforesaid.

X. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons do or shall, with force and arms, wilfully and knowingly oppose, obstruct, or in any manner wilfully and knowingly let, hinder, or hurt, any Justice of the Peace, or other person authorized as aforesaid, who shall attend any such meeting as aforesaid, or who shall be going to attend any such meeting, or any person or persons who shall begin to proclaim, or go to proclaim, according to any proclamation hereby directed to be made, whereby such proclamation shall not be made, that then every such opposing, obstructing, letting, hindering, or hurting, any such Justice or other persons so authorized as aforesaid, and so attending, or going to attend any such meeting, or any such person or persons so beginning or going to make any such proclamation as aforesaid, shall be adjudged felony without benefit of Clergy, and the offenders therein shall be adjudged felons, and shall suffer death as in case of felony without benefit of Clergy; and that also every such person or persons so being assembled as aforesaid, to the number of Fifty or more as aforesaid, to whom any such proclamation as aforesaid should or ought to have been made, if the same had not been hindered as aforesaid, shall likewise, in case they or any of them, to the number of Twelve or more, shall continue together, and not disperse themselves within One Hour after such let or hindrance,

hindrance so made, having knowledge of such let or hindrance so made, shall be adjudged felons, and shall suffer death as in case of felony, without benefit of Clergy; and that also, if any person or persons, so being at any such assembly as aforesaid, shall with force and arms wilfully and knowingly oppose, obstruct, or in any manner wilfully and knowingly let, hinder, or hurt, any Justice of the Peace, or other magistrate, or any peace officer, in apprehending or taking into custody, in execution of any of the provisions of this act herein-before contained, any person or persons, or endeavouring so to do, that then every such opposing, obstructing, letting, hindering, or hurting, shall be adjudged felony without benefit of Clergy, and the offenders therein shall be adjudged felons, and shall suffer death as in case of felony without benefit of clergy.

XI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Sheriffs Depute and their Substitutes, Stewards Depute and their Substitutes, Justices of the Peace, Magistrates of Royal Boroughs, and all other inferior Judges and Magistrates, and also all High and Petty Constables or other Peace Officers, of any County, Stewartry, City, or Town, within that part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, shall have such and the same powers and authorities, for putting this present Act in execution within *Scotland*, as the Justices of the Peace and other Magistrates aforesaid respectively have, by virtue of this Act, within and for the other parts of this Kingdom; and that all and every person and persons who shall at any time be convicted of any of the felonies aforesaid, within that part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, shall for every such offence incur and suffer the pain of death, and confiscation of moveables.

XII. And whereas certain houses, rooms, or places, within the cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and in the neighbourhood thereof, and in other places, have of late been frequently used for the purpose of delivering lectures and discourses on and concerning supposed publick grievances, and matters relating to the laws, constitution, and government and policy of these Kingdoms, and treating and debating on and concerning the same; and under pretence thereof lectures or discourses have been delivered, and debates held, tending to stir up hatred and contempt of his Majesty's royal person, and of the government and constitution of this Realm as by law established: Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every house, room, field, or other place where lectures or discourses shall be delivered, or publick debates shall be had on or concerning any supposed publick grievance, or any matters relating to the laws, constitution, government, or policy of these Kingdoms, for the purpose of raising or collecting money, or any other valuable thing, from the persons admitted, whether such house, room, field, or place, shall be opened or used for any such purpose alone, or for any such purpose together with any other purpose, or under whatever pretence the same shall be opened or used, to which any person shall be admitted by the payment of money, or by tickets sold for money, or in consequence of his paying or giving, or having paid or given, or agreeing thereafter to pay or give, in any manner, any money or other thing for or in respect of his admission into such house, room, field or place, unless the opening or using of such house, room, field, or place, shall have been previously licensed in manner herein-after mentioned, shall be deemed a disorderly house or place, and the person by whom such house, room, field, or place, shall be opened or used for the purpose

pose aforesaid, shall forfeit the sum of One Hundred Pounds for every day or time that such house, room, field, or place, shall be opened, or used as aforesaid, to such person as will sue for the same, and be otherwise punished as the law directs in cases of disorderly houses; and every person managing or conducting the proceedings, or acting as Moderator, President, or Chairman, at such house, room, field, or place, or therein debating, or delivering any discourse or lecture for the purpose aforesaid, and also every person who shall pay, give, collect, or receive, or agree to pay, give, collect, or receive, any money or other thing, for or in respect of the admission of any person into any such house, room, field, or place, or shall deliver out, distribute, or receive, any such ticket or tickets as aforesaid, knowing such house, room, field, or place, to be opened or used for such purpose, shall for every such offence forfeit the sum of One Hundred Pounds to such person as will sue for the same.

XIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any person who shall at any time hereafter appear, act, or behave him or herself as master or mistress, or as the person having the command, government, or management, of any such house, room, field or place as aforesaid, shall be deemed and taken to be a person by whom the same is opened or used as aforesaid, and shall be liable to be sued or prosecuted, and punished as such, notwithstanding he or she be not, in fact, the real owner or occupier thereof.

XIV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for any Justice or Justices of the Peace, or Chief Magistrate respectively, of any County, City, Borough, or Place, who shall by information upon oath, have reason to suspect that any house, room, field, or place, or any parts or part thereof are or is opened or used for the purpose of delivering lectures or discourses, or for public debate, contrary to the provisions of this Act, to go to such house, room, or place, and demand to be admitted therein; and in case such Justice or Justices, or other Magistrate, shall be refused admittance to such house, room, field, or place, or any part thereof, the same shall be deemed a disorderly house or place, within the intent and meaning of this Act; and all and every the provisions herein-before contained respecting any house, room, field, or place, herein-before declared to be a disorderly house, or place, shall be applied to such house, room, field, or place, where such admittance shall have been refused as aforesaid, and every person refusing such admittance shall forfeit the sum of One Hundred Pounds to any person who shall sue for the same.

XV. Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for any Justice or Justices of the Peace, or Chief Magistrate respectively, of any County, City, Borough, or Place, where any such house, room, or other building, shall be licensed as aforesaid, to go to such house, room, or building so licensed, at the time of delivering any such lecture or discourse therein as aforesaid, or at the time appointed for delivering any such lecture or discourse, and demand to be admitted therein; and in case such Justice or Justices, or other Magistrate, shall be refused admittance to such house, room, or building, the same shall be deemed, notwithstanding any such licence as aforesaid, a disorderly house or place, within the meaning of this Act; and all and every the provisions herein-before contained, respecting any house, room, field, or place, herein-before declared to be a disorderly house or place, shall be applied to such house, room, or build-

hindrance so made, having knowledge of such let or hindrance so made, shall be adjudged felons; and shall suffer death as in case of felony, without benefit of Clergy; and that also, if any person or persons, so being at any such assembly as aforesaid, shall with force and arms wilfully and knowingly oppose, obstruct, or in any manner wilfully and knowingly let, hinder, or hurt, any Justice of the Peace, or other magistrate, or any peace officer, in apprehending or taking into custody, in execution of any of the provisions of this act herein-before contained, any person or persons, or endeavouring so to do, that then every such opposing, obstructing, letting, hindering, or hurting, shall be adjudged felony without benefit of Clergy, and the offenders therein shall be adjudged felons, and shall suffer death as in case of felony without benefit of clergy.

XI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Sheriffs Depute and their Substitutes, Stewards Depute and their Substitutes, Justices of the Peace, Magistrates of Royal Boroughs, and all other inferior Judges and Magistrates, and also all High and Petty Constables or other Peace Officers, of any County, Stewartry, City, or Town, within that part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, shall have such and the same powers and authorities, for putting this present Act in execution within *Scotland*, as the Justices of the Peace and other Magistrates aforesaid respectively have, by virtue of this Act, within and for the other parts of this Kingdom; and that all and every person and persons who shall at any time be convicted of any of the felonies aforesaid, within that part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, shall for every such offence incur and suffer the pain of death, and confiscation of moveables.

XII. And whereas certain houses, rooms, or places, within the cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and in the neighbourhood thereof, and in other places, have of late been frequently used for the purpose of delivering lectures and discourses on and concerning supposed publick grievances, and matters relating to the laws, constitution, and government and policy of these Kingdoms, and treating and debating on and concerning the same; and under pretence thereof lectures or discourses have been delivered, and debates held, tending to stir up hatred and contempt of his Majesty's royal person, and of the government and constitution of this Realm as by law established: Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every house, room, field, or other place where lectures or discourses shall be delivered, or publick debates shall be had on or concerning any supposed publick grievance, or any matters relating to the laws, constitution, government, or policy of these Kingdoms, for the purpose of raising or collecting money, or any other valuable thing, from the persons admitted, whether such house, room, field, or place, shall be opened or used for any such purpose alone, or for any such purpose together with any other purpose, or under whatever pretence the same shall be opened or used, to which any person shall be admitted by the payment of money, or by tickets sold for money, or in consequence of his paying or giving, or having paid or given, or agreeing thereafter to pay or give, in any manner, any money or other thing for or in respect of his admission into such house, room, field or place, unless the opening or using of such house, room, field, or place, shall have been previously licensed in manner herein-after mentioned, shall be deemed a disorderly house or place, and the person by whom such house, room, field, or place, shall be opened or used for the purpose

pose aforesaid, shall forfeit the sum of One Hundred Pounds for every day or time that such house, room, field, or place, shall be opened, or used as aforesaid, to such person as will sue for the same, and be otherwise punished as the law directs in cases of disorderly houses; and every person managing or conducting the proceedings, or acting as Moderator, President, or Chairman, at such house, room, field, or place, or therein debating, or delivering any discourse or lecture for the purpose aforesaid, and also every person who shall pay, give, collect, or receive, or agree to pay, give, collect, or receive, any money or other thing, for or in respect of the admission of any person into any such house, room, field, or place, or shall deliver out, distribute, or receive, any such ticket or tickets as aforesaid, knowing such house, room, field, or place, to be opened or used for such purpose, shall for every such offence forfeit the sum of One Hundred Pounds to such person as will sue for the same.

XIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any person who shall at any time hereafter appear, act, or behave him or herself as master or mistress, or as the person having the command, government, or management, of any such house, room, field or place as aforesaid, shall be deemed and taken to be a person by whom the same is opened or used as aforesaid, and shall be liable to be sued or prosecuted, and punished as such, notwithstanding he or she be not, in fact, the real owner or occupier thereof.

XIV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for any Justice or Justices of the Peace, or Chief Magistrate respectively, of any County, City, Borough, or Place, who shall by information upon oath, have reason to suspect that any house, room, field, or place, or any parts or part thereof are or is opened or used for the purpose of delivering lectures or discourses, or for public debate, contrary to the provisions of this Act, to go to such house, room, or place, and demand to be admitted therein; and in case such Justice or Justices, or other Magistrate, shall be refused admittance to such house, room, field, or place, or any part thereof, the same shall be deemed a disorderly house or place, within the intent and meaning of this Act; and all and every the provisions herein-before contained respecting any house, room, field, or place, herein-before declared to be a disorderly house, or place, shall be applied to such house, room, field, or place, where such admittance shall have been refused as aforesaid, and every person refusing such admittance shall forfeit the sum of One Hundred Pounds to any person who shall sue for the same.

XV. Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for any Justice or Justices of the Peace, or Chief Magistrate respectively, of any County, City, Borough, or Place, where any such house, room, or other building, shall be licensed as aforesaid, to go to such house, room, or building so licensed, at the time of delivering any such lecture or discourse therein as aforesaid, or at the time appointed for delivering any such lecture or discourse, and demand to be admitted therein; and in case such Justice or Justices, or other Magistrate, shall be refused admittance to such house, room, or building, the same shall be deemed, notwithstanding any such licence as aforesaid, a disorderly house or place, within the meaning of this Act; and all and every the provisions herein-before contained, respecting any house, room, field, or place, herein-before declared to be a disorderly house or place, shall be applied to such house, room, or build-

building, so licensed as aforesaid, where such admittance shall have been refused as aforesaid; and every person refusing such admittance shall forfeit the sum of One Hundred Pounds to any person who will sue for the same.

XVI. Provided nevertheless, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for two or more Justices of the Peace of the County, City, Town, or Place, where any house, room, or other building shall be, which any person shall be desirous to open for any of the purposes aforesaid, by writing under their hands and seals, at their General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or at any Special Session to be held for the particular purpose, to grant a licence to any person or persons desiring the same, to open such house, room, or other building, for the purpose of delivering for money any such lectures or discourses as aforesaid, on any of the subjects aforesaid, the same being clearly expressed in such licence, for which licence a fee of one shilling, and no more, shall be paid, and the same shall be in force for the space of one year, and no longer, or for any less space of time, therein to be specified; and which licence it shall be lawful for the Justices of the same County, City, Town, or Place, at any General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to revoke and declare void and no longer in force, by any order of such Justices, a copy whereof shall be delivered to or served upon the person to whom the said licence so revoked shall have been granted, or shall be left at the house, room, or building, for which such licence shall have been granted, and thereupon such licence shall cease and determine, and be thenceforth utterly void and of no effect.

XVII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any person entitled to any of the forfeitures aforesaid may sue by action of debt in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, or in the Courts of Justiciary or Exchequer in *Scotland*, when the cause of action shall arise in *Scotland*, in which action it shall be sufficient to declare that the defendant is indebted to the plaintiff in the sum of

(being the sum demanded by the said action) being forfeited by an Act, made in the thirty-sixth year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Third, intituled, *An Act for the more effectually preventing Seditious Meetings and Assemblies*; and the plaintiff, if he shall recover in any such action, shall have his full costs: Provided also, that if any action or suit shall be brought against any person for any thing done in pursuance and in execution of this Act, the defendant may plead the general issue; and if a verdict pass for the defendant, or the plaintiff discontinue his or her action, or be nonsuited, or judgment be given against the plaintiff, then such defendant shall have treble costs.

XVIII. Provided also, That nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to extend to any lectures or discourses to be delivered in any of the Universities of these kingdoms, by any member thereof, or any person authorised by the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, or other proper officers of such Universities respectively.

XIX. Provided also, and be it actened, That no payment made to any schoolmaster or other persons by law allowed to teach and instruct youth, in respect of any lectures or discourses delivered by such schoolmaster, or other person, for the instruction only of such youth as shall be committed to his instruction, shall be deemed a payment of money for admission to such lectures or discourses within the intent and meaning of this Act.

XX.

XX. Provided also, That nothing in this act contained shall be deemed to take away or abridge any provision already made by the law of this Realm, or of any part thereof, for the suppression or punishment of any offence whatsoever described in this Act.

XXI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be openly read at every *Epiphany* Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and at every leet or law day.

XXII. Provided always, That no person shall be prosecuted by virtue of this Act, unless such prosecutions shall be commenced within six calendar months after the offence committed; and no action shall be brought for any of the penalties by this Act imposed, unless the same shall be brought within three calendar months next after the offence committed.

XXIII. Provided also, That this Act shall commence and have effect within the city of *London*, and within twenty miles thereof, from the day next after the day of passing this Act, and shall commence and have effect within all other parts of the kingdom, from the expiration of seven days next after the day of passing this Act, and shall be and continue in force for three years from the day of passing this Act, and until the end of the then next session of Parliament.

F I N I S.

LORD GRENVILLE'S ACT,

TO PREVENT HIS MAJESTY'S PERSON AND GOVERNMENT FROM TREASONABLE AND SEDITIOUS ATTEMPTS. DECEMBER 18, 1795.

States that his dutiful Lords and Commons considering the Outrages at the Commencement of the Sessions going to and from the Parliament,

AND therefore, calling to mind the good and wholesome provisions which have at different times been made by the wisdom of Parliament for the averting such dangers, and more especially for the security and preservation of the persons of the Sovereigns of these Realms, do most humbly beseech your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That if any person or persons whatsoever, after the day of the passing of this Act, during the natural life of our Most Gracious Sovereign Lord the King, (whom Almighty God preserve and bless with a long and prosperous reign), and until the end of the next Session of Parliament after a demise of the Crown, shall, within the Realm or without, compass, imagine, invent, devise, or intend death or destruction, or any bodily harm tending to death and destruction, maim or wounding, imprisonment or restraint, of the person of the same our Sovereign Lord the King, his heirs and successors, or to deprive or depose him or them from the title, honour, or kingly name, of the imperial Crown of this Realm, or of any other of his Majesty's dominions or countries; or to levy war against his Majesty, his heirs and successors, within this Realm, in order, by force or restraint, to compel him or them to change his or their measures or counsels, or in order to put any force or constraint upon, or to intimidate, or overawe, both Houses, or either House of Parliament; or to move or stir any foreigner or stranger with force to invade this Realm, or any other his Majesty's dominions or countries, under the obedience of his Majesty, his heirs and successors; and such compassings, imaginations, inventions, devices, or intentions, or any of them, shall express, utter, or declare, by publishing any printing or writing,

writing, or by any overt act or deed; being legally convicted thereof, upon the oaths of two lawful and credible witnesses, upon trial, or otherwise convicted or attainted by due course of Law, then every such person and persons, so as aforesaid offending, shall be deemed, declared, and adjudged, to be a traitor and traitors, and shall suffer pains of death, and also lose and forfeit as in cases of high treason.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons within that part of *Great Britain* called *England*, at any time from and after the day of the passing of this Act, during Three Years from the day of passing this Act, and until the end of the then next Session of Parliament, shall maliciously and advisedly, by writing, printing, preaching, or other speaking, express, publish, utter, or declare, any words or sentences to incite or stir up the people to hatred or contempt of the person of his Majesty, his Heirs or Successors, or the Government and Constitution of this Realm, as by law established, then every such person and persons, being thereof legally convicted, shall be liable to such punishment as may by law be inflicted in cases of high misdemeanors; and if any person or persons shall, after being so convicted, offend a second time, and be thereupon convicted, before any Commission of Oyer and Terminer, or Gaol Delivery, or in his Majesty's Court of King's Bench, such person or persons may, on such second conviction, be adjudged, at the discretion of the Court, either to suffer such punishment as may now by law be inflicted in cases of high misdemeanors, or to be banished this Realm, or to be transported to such place, as shall be appointed by his Majesty for the transportation of offenders: which banishment or transportation shall be for such term as the Court may appoint, not exceeding seven years.

III. And be it further enacted, That if any offender or offenders, who shall be so ordered by any such Court as aforesaid to be banished the Realm, or transported beyond the seas, in manner aforesaid, shall be afterwards at large within any part of the Kingdom of *Great Britain*, without some lawful cause, before the expiration of the term for which such offender or offenders shall have been ordered to be banished or transported beyond the seas as aforesaid, every such offender being so at large as aforesaid, being thereof lawfully convicted, shall suffer death, as in cases of felony without benefit of Clergy; and such offender or offenders may be tried, either before Justices of Assize, Oyer and Terminer, Great Sessions or Gaol Delivery, for the County, City, Liberty, Borough or Place where such offender or offenders shall be apprehended and taken, or from whence he, she, or they, was or were ordered to be banished or transported; and the clerk of Assize, clerk of the Peace, or other clerk or officer of the Court having the custody of the records where such orders of banishment or transportation shall be made, shall, at the request of the prosecutor, or any other person on his Majesty's behalf, make out and give a certificate, in writing, signed by him, containing the effect and substance only (omitting the formal part) of every indictment and conviction of such offender or offenders and of the order for his, her, or their banishment or transportation, to the Justices of Assize, Oyer and Terminer, Great Sessions, or Gaol Delivery, where such offender or offenders shall be indicted (not taking for the same more than two shillings and sixpence); which certificate shall be sufficient proof of the conviction and order for banishment or transportation of such offender or offenders.

IV. Provided

IV. Provided always, That no person or persons, by virtue of this present Act, shall for any misdemeanor incur any the penalties hereinbefore mentioned, unless he, she, or they be prosecuted within six calendar months next after the offence committed, and the prosecution brought to trial or judgement within the first Term, Sittings, Assizes, or Sessions, in which, by the course of the Court wherein such prosecution shall be depending, the prosecutor could bring on such trial, or cause such judgement to be entered, or in the Term, Sittings, Assizes, or Session, which shall next ensue, unless the Court in which such prosecution shall be depending, or before which such trial ought to be had, shall, on special ground stated by motion in open Court, think fit to enlarge the time for the trial thereof, or unless the defendant shall be prosecuted to or towards an outlawry; and that no person shall, upon trial be convicted by virtue of this Act, for any misdemeanor, but by the oaths of two credible witnesses.

V. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That all and every person or persons that shall at any time be accused, or indicted, or prosecuted, for any offence made or declared to be treason by this Act, shall be entitled to the benefit of the Act of Parliament, made in the seventh year of his late Majesty King *William* the third, intituled, *An Act for regulating of Trials in cases of Treason and misprision of Treason*; and also to the provisions made by another Act of Parliament, passed in the seventh year of her late Majesty Queen *Anne*, intituled *An Act for improving the Union of the two Kingdoms*.

VI. Provided also, and be it enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prevent or affect any prosecution by information or indictment at the common law, for any offence within the provisions of this Act, unless the party shall have been first prosecuted under this Act.

F I N I S.



